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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Whang**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2017/0255351 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Sep. 7, 2017**(54) **HANDHELD DEVICES AS VISUAL  
INDICATORS****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.****G06F 3/0482** (2006.01)**G09G 3/34** (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.****CPC** ..... **G06F 3/0482** (2013.01); **G09G 3/3406**(2013.01); **G09G 2320/064** (2013.01); **G09G****2320/0633** (2013.01)(71) Applicant: **APPLE INC.**, Cupertino, CA (US)(72) Inventor: **Eugene Antony Whang**, San Francisco,  
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(57)

**ABSTRACT****Related U.S. Application Data**(63) Continuation of application No. 13/718,969, filed on  
Dec. 18, 2012, now Pat. No. 9,678,626, which is a  
continuation of application No. 12/128,586, filed on  
May 28, 2008, now abandoned, which is a continu-  
ation of application No. 10/889,933, filed on Jul. 12,  
2004, now Pat. No. 7,616,097.

A computing device is configured with a multifunctional  
backlit display. The backlighting can be operated in at least  
a first mode and a second mode. In a first mode, the  
backlighting provides luminance to the display so that  
images on the display can be easily seen. In a second mode,  
the backlighting provides visual stimulus for relaying infor-  
mation to a user or a user's surroundings.

